public sector telecommunication companies *viz.*, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) where the average staff to telephone ratio is 13 per 1000 telephone lines, which is higher than international figures. However, manpower shortage is felt in certain cadres in Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) where there is a phenomenal growth of the teledensity Measures are taken to recruit staff, where required.

Dual Charge for Telephone Engineers at Idgah Exchange

†450. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those Zonal Engineers/Sub-Zonal Engineers working in Idgah Telephone Exchange of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited who have double charges of Sub-Zonal Engineers (Field) as well as cable and the details of those having not any charge;

(b) the reasons for entrusting double charge to some engineers and keeping others idle; and

(c) by when the additional charge from the Engineers having double charge would be taken back and handed over to the Engineers sitting idle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are two Divisions in Idgah telephone exchange. In Division-I, there are four Sub-Divisional Engineers who are responsible for outdoor plant including maintenance of cable network for their respective demarcated areas.

In Division-II, there are five Sub-Divisional Engineers (SDEs). Out of them three SDEs are in charge of external plant of their respective areas and two SDEs are responsible for maintenance of cable network of Division-II. There are no SDEs who are without charge.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Disputes before TRAI

451. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of disputes came before Telephone Regulatory Authority of India since its inception in 1997;

(b) what is the jurisdiction of TRAI;

(c) the number of cases solved, year-wise; and

(d) the number of cases pending for more than one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of disputes before Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), year-wise, since its inception in 1997 and until the establishment of Telecom Disputes Settlement and appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) are as under:-

1997	—	18 cases
1998	—	16 cases
1999	—	5 cases

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, prior to its amendment by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000, had provided for the recommendatory, regulatory, and the adjudicatory functions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The adjudicatory role of TRAI was transferred to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) constituted under the amended Act.

(c) and (d) The number of cases resolved by TRAI, year-wise, till the inception of TDSAT are as under:—

1997	—	10 cases
1998	—	9 cases
1999	—	4 cases

Consequent on transfer of adjudicatory functions of TRAI to TDSAT, 16 cases pending before TRAI were transferred to TDSAT for adjudication. All the cases so transferred have since been disposed off by TDSAT. Further, no case filed before TDSAT since its inception is pending for more than one year.

Anthrax Letters Complaints

452. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anthrax letters complaints received upto date;